

# News from the Illinois Commerce Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ICC approves highway-railroad improvements near Macomb**

The Illinois Commerce Commission has approved plans for a rail improvement project involving the installation of automatic flashing light signals and gates at the TR 350 (1600E) highway-rail grade crossing of the BNSF Railway Company's track located near Macomb in McDonough County.

The project also requires Macomb Township to improve the highway approach grades to meet the minimum requirements of 92 IL. Adm. Code 1535.

The total estimated cost to install the automatic warning devices is \$164,529. The Illinois Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) will be used to pay 95 percent of the installation costs, not to exceed \$156,302. The BNSF will pay all remaining installation costs, as well as all future operation and maintenance costs. The cost to reconstruct the highway approaches is estimated to be \$20,000. Macomb Township will pay 100 percent of those costs, as well as all future maintenance costs.

The project must be completed by July 26, 2007.

### **ABOUT THE GRADE CROSSING PROTECTION FUND (GCPF)**

Project selection and management of GCPF highway-rail safety projects include safety improvements such as the installation of new warning systems, highway approach improvements and the construction/reconstruction of grade separation structures. The Commission administers the GCPF, which is funded by motor fuel tax money designated for rail safety improvements.

The General Assembly appropriates \$27 million annually for GCPF projects.

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